

Vision Screening: Hyperopia (Farsightedness, Near Vision Screening)

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SCREEN

7-005.01 For the purposes of the school officials verifying that a qualified screener is carrying out the required screening activity, the qualified screener is a person who follows the competencies for accurate, reliable measurement as described in 7-004 and found in Attachment 2 (and incorporated in these guidelines), **and** who meets **one** of the following descriptions (7-005.02 through 7-005.04):

7-005.02 The screener has been determined competent to perform the screening method by a licensed health care professional within the previous three years. Documentation in writing of such competency determination shall include:

7-005.02A The name of the individual who successfully completed the competency determination and the date the determination was conducted;

7-005.02B The type of screening with type(s) of equipment used in the competency determination for the respective screenings; and

7-005.02C The name and license number of the licensed health professional conducting the competency assessment; OR

7-005.03 The screener will receive direct supervision from a licensed health care professional while screening; OR

7-005.04 Screening is conducted by a licensed health care professional, as follows:

7.005.04A A Nebraska-credentialed health care professional registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced practice registered nurse-nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or physician, are authorized to perform health screening at school.

7.005.04B Other licensed health professionals authorized to conduct specific screenings in addition to health professionals identified in 7-005.01 are:

Hearing: Audiologists and speech language pathologists.

Vision: Optometrists.

Dental Health: Dentists and dental hygienists.

7-005.05 Record of persons qualified to screen

The school must keep on file for a minimum of three (3) years the name, profession, license number, or written verification of competency in the screening method, for each screener permitted by the school to perform health screening.

VISION SCREENING COMPETENCIES: NEAR VISION

Essential Steps for Accurate Measurement

COMPETENCY	KEY POINTS AND PRECAUTIONS
<p>1. Assemble required equipment and supplies.</p> <p>In addition to eye chart and accurate floor distance measurement, as required for distant vision screening, this screening also requires the use of +2.50 diopter lenses, suitable for the student holding in front of their eyes to view the vision chart.</p>	<p><i>Hyperopia screening can be conducted smoothly and efficiently as a final step in distant vision assessment, taking very little additional time and preparation.</i></p>
<p>2. After the child completes distant vision screening, instruct him or her to remain in place, heels on the line of measurement from the chart, and briefly close and rest the eyes.</p> <p>The child is instructed (or provided demonstration) of holding up the diopter lenses in front of the eyes as one would hold opera glasses.</p> <p>Correct recognition of more than half the letters, pictures or symbols on the 20/30 line, viewed through the diopter lenses, constitutes a “non-passing” result.</p>	<p><i>Screening under poor lighting will affect screening results.</i></p> <p><i>Monocular testing for distant vision may fatigue the eyes, so many students benefit from briefly closing both eyes.</i></p> <p><i>Some nurses find it helpful, on noticing that a child is struggling or straining to read letters on the chart, to simply ask the question: “Are the letters clear or are they blurry?” (Students who pass the test often comment that the letters are blurry.)</i></p> <p><i>If the student wears glasses, the glasses remain on for near vision screening and the diopter lenses are held in front of the student’s own glasses.</i></p> <p><i>The inability to read the 20/30 line is considered passing and the child likely has no treatable hyperopia.</i></p>
<p>3. Record results</p>	<p><i>A child who can successfully read through the diopter lenses does NOT pass the screening.</i></p> <p><i>Rescreening should be conducted in 2-4 weeks to verify results prior to referral.</i></p>
<p>4. Carry out rescreen and</p>	<p><i>Parents should be notified of need for further</i></p>

notification procedures per local school practice/policy	<i>evaluation by a vision professional if rescreening results in non-passing outcome.</i>
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WHO MUST BE SCREENED

Near vision screening is required for students in grades 1 and 3 on an annual basis.

Additional indications for screening:

1. Student enters the Student Assistance Process at any grade.
2. Periodic screenings as specified by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
3. Nurse concern, parent or teacher concern, i.e., difficulty or aversion to near vision tasks, squinting while reading, complaints of headaches or eye fatigue while reading, etc.
4. Unremediated concerns from previous year.

RESCREENING

As with other screening procedures in the school screening program, rescreening of students who fail initial screening, within 2-4 weeks of the initial screen, is recommended in order to verify results (and control for incidental distractions that may have affected the initial screening result).

The student **does not pass** the near vision screening if able to *correctly identify* more than half of the symbols on the 20/30 line of a standard vision chart when viewing the chart with each eye separately through hand-held +2.50 diopter lenses or flippers. The student **passes** the screening when the student states he or she is **unable** to view the symbols through the diopter lenses or states they are too blurry to see clearly.

NOTIFICATION OF NEED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

The student looks through the diopter lenses and reports the chart is blurry .	The student passes the screening.
The student looks through the diopter lenses and reports the chart looks clear .	The student has not passed . The parent should be notified of need for further evaluation.

The parent is notified of need for further evaluation when the student does not pass the near vision screening and rescreen.

Children who do not pass the near vision testing should be referred to an eye care professionally for a comprehensive vision evaluation.

DATA

Data Goals of Screening are:

- a) Identify baseline measures (proportion of children screened who do not pass) and monitor trends over time.
- b) Understand health disparities affecting Nebraska's school aged children (compare results by group).
- c) Use screening data as an indicator of the quality of the screening practice (if passing rate is lower than expected, review screening process).
- d) Compare measures across time and location.
- e) Explore the relationship between the condition, academic performance, and absenteeism (compare absenteeism and performance for those who do not pass with those that do pass the screening).
- f) Understand the need for vision services for children in Nebraska; begin to identify barriers to care and systemic approaches to improving access to vision care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This screening provides an initial evaluation of visual acuity at near distances. The condition of inadequate vision at near distances (8-16 inches from the eyes) is commonly referred to as farsightedness or hyperopia. Screening for near vision deficit is particularly useful when considering whether children have adequate vision for reading from a page or from a computer screen.

The recommended method for hyperopia screening is conducted concurrently with distant vision screening at 10 or 20 feet (determined by the distant vision chart used). The student views the chart using both eyes simultaneously through handheld 2+ diopter screening lenses. If the student is able to *correctly* identify symbols on the chart while viewing through the lenses, the student has *failed* the screening and should be referred for further evaluation. It is only necessary to have the student attempt to read the 20/30 line for this screening.

RESOURCES

Resources for financial assistance with vision needs.

(guidelines, data, screening equipment and materials, resources for families and teachers)

See resources in distant vision screening guideline.

FORMS

Sample vision referral form